CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of simplifying wide-area network navigation comprising:

limiting navigation options to a set, each member of which can be traversed by pressing a single unique key; and

displaying each option on a display in association with an indication of the single unique keys.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the options are displayed in a matrix format with each cell of the matrix associated with a unique key.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the set comprises:

a first subset of primary navigation options and a second subset of secondary navigation options wherein each member of the first subset is associated with a numerical digit key.

4. The method of claim 2 further comprising:

generating successively deeper layers of the matrix responsive to key press signals until a maximum depth is reached; and

displaying content corresponding to the cell selected at the maximum depth.

5. The method of claim 4 comprising:

translating content from an arbitrary format to a single predefined format.

6. The method of claim 2 wherein a background is displayed behind the matrix further comprising:

matching the background with a selected navigation option.

7. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

fading the indication off the display for a subset of options over a time interval.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the display is a television display.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein each navigation option is associated with a single key on a television remote control.

10. A computer readable storage media containing executable computer program instructions which when executed cause a digital processing system to perform a method comprising:

limiting navigation options to a set, each member of which can be traversed by pressing a single unique key; and

displaying each option on a display in association with an indication of the single unique keys.

11. The computer readable storage media of claim 10 which when executed cause a digital processing system to perform a method further comprising:

options displayed in a matrix format with each cell of the matrix associated with a unique key.

12. The computer readable storage media of claim 10 which when executed cause a digital processing system to perform a method further comprising:

a first subset of primary navigation options and a second subset of secondary navigation options wherein each member of the first subset is associated with a numerical digit key.

13. The computer readable storage media of claim 11 which when executed cause a digital processing system to perform a method further comprising:

generating successively deeper layers of the matrix responsive to

key press signals until a maximum depth is reached; and

displaying content corresponding to the cell selected at the maximum depth.

14. The computer readable storage media of claim 13 which when executed cause a digital processing system to perform a method further comprising:

translating content from an arbitrary format to a single predefined format.

15. The computer readable storage media of claim 11 which when executed cause a digital processing system to perform a method further comprising:

matching the background with a selected navigation option.

16. The computer readable storage media of claim 11 wherein the successively deeper layers are displayed on a television display.

17. The computer readable storage media of claim 16 wherein the single unique key is on a wireless remote control.